

CONCORDIA



March 13, 1997

Stingers

Concordia-Russian Hockey Showdown

The Concordia Stingers women's hockey team will face off against the Russian national team on Saturday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Concordia Arena, 7200 Sherbrooke St. W.

It will be the third meeting between the two teams. In Montreal on Feb. 28, 1996, the teams first met in a game that saw the Stingers hand the Russians a 6-4 loss. This was the start of a fierce rivalry. The Stingers travelled to Russia for a four-team tournament in late October 1996. Much to the surprise of the Stingers, the team played a unscheduled pre-tournament game after two straight days of travel. In Moscow, the Russians defeated Concordia 3-2 in a tight-checking match. Next it was off to Magnitogorsk for the prestigious tournament, which also featured teams from Finland and Sweden. Game 1 on Oct. 23 saw the Stingers face the Russians. The game ended in a 0-0 tie. Each team now has a 1-1-1 record in the Concordia-Russia series. This fourth game on March 22 will give one squad the upper hand.

The Stingers, long considered the best team in university hockey, posted a 25-9-8 record this season and won their third straight league championship. Expected to lead the Stingers on March 22 is Stinger forward Corinne Swirsky. She is coming off a stellar season and leads all Concordia point-getters with 50 goals and 24 assists for 74 points.

"This will be women's hockey at its best," said Concordia head coach Les Lawton. "Anytime any Russian team faces off against a Canadian team emotions are high and outcomes are difficult to predict."

After the Concordia game, the Russian National team continues its exhibition schedule against the U.S. national team in Lake Placid, N.Y. The Russians will then head to Kitchener, Ont., where the team will compete in the Women's World Hockey Championships from April 2-6.

For information call Catherine Grace or Andrew Chlebus at 848-3862.